



DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION *Angele Davis, Commissioner*
STATE OF LOUISIANA

LaTrac

Louisiana Accountability & Transparency Portal
Online Spending Database

Louisiana State University

November 12, 2008



Online Transparency Initiatives

Executive Order BJ 2008-2 Transparency

- Create an online state spending database

Act 20 of the 1st Extraordinary session on Ethics Reform

- Require Commissioner to establish and maintain a website of state spending by January 2009
- Updated monthly
- Budgeting, spending and performance information will be posted online in an easy to use format

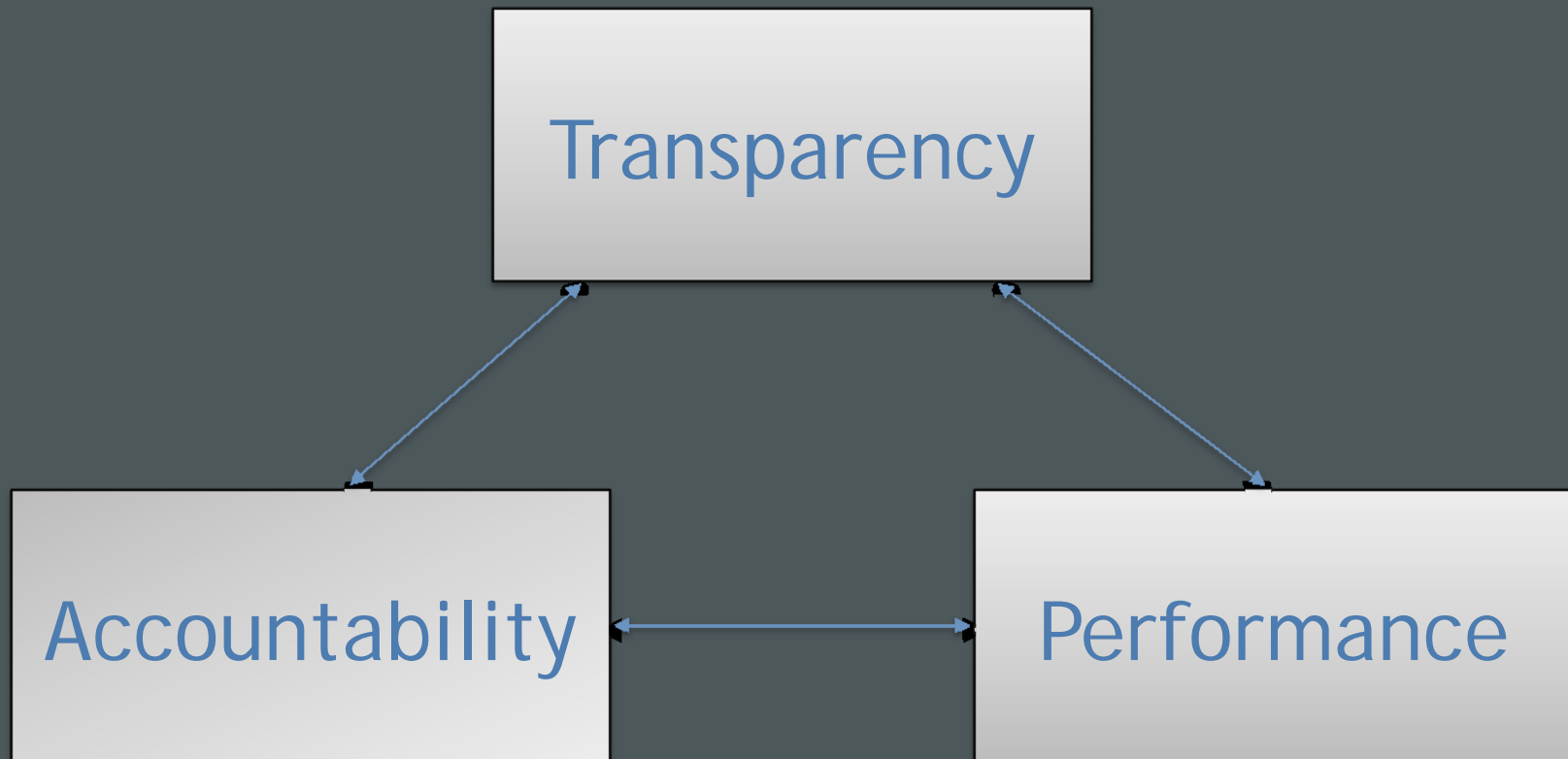


A Leader in Transparency

- One of eight states to have online expenditures
- One of two states to include higher education
- Only state where the transparency website is established by both executive order and legislative statute
- Only state to link online expenditures to performance measures



Foundations of Fiscal Reform





Fiscal Reforms

- Completely eliminated, for the first time in Louisiana's history, state government's long-held, unhealthy reliance on "one-time" revenue for recurring expenditures. Eliminating the previous year's \$800 million reliance on one-time money also represents the largest year-to-year reduction in Louisiana's history.
- Eliminated 984 vacant state government positions at an estimated savings of \$58 million — and did so, for the first time, using departments' 5.5-year historical vacancy average to protect levels of service but also to make sure the cuts are lasting.



Fiscal Reforms

- Instituted earmark spending reform for greater transparency and objectivity in state spending. Governor's line-item vetoes struck 258 earmarked spending items from the budget - an amount more than double the 120 line-item vetoes in the previous 12 budget years combined.
- Holding the line on the size of government, as the result of a limited statewide government hiring freeze, achieved state General Fund savings of \$39 million — \$14 million more than the \$25 million target called for in the Governor's executive order.
- Eliminated two government offices and consolidated five others.



Fiscal Reforms

Achieved credit rating upgrades from 3 major credit rating agencies and maintained them through the recent storms:

- Moody's: "Louisiana's economic and fiscal recovery after Katrina has been impressive."
- Standard & Poor's: "Continued strong revenue performance and budget discipline in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita ... the state has prudently managed surpluses by allocating them to one-time expenditures or to recurring items that are affordable."
- Fitch: "Reflect[ing] the state's recent strong financial performance and management, growing reserve position, and continued economic expansion ... the state's current financial position is strong."



LaTrac Goals

- Foster openness in government
- Provide taxpayers user-friendly “financial statement” of how their money is spent
- Increase accountability
- Reduce potential waste, fraud, abuse, and conflicts of interest
- Increase efficiency and effectiveness of government programs and services
- Strengthen link between expenditure and performance
- Educate citizens and build trust through transparency
- Reduce wasteful or unnecessary spending



LaTrac Tools

- Allows citizens to drill down to see every expenditure to date during current year, and previous year totals
- The detailed expenditure item will have the amount spent and vendor information
- Analytical tools allow sorting by category alphabetically (departments, agencies or vendor) or by amount
- The website also features bar and pie charts of the expenditure and expenditure categories
- Citizens searching expenditures by department can also click to open a link to that department's performance measures
- Lists cabinet and appointed position salary information



Short-term improvements (by Jan. 15)

- Adding agencies not on the state accounting system to the database (DOTD and all of Higher Education)
- Automating the data transmission and update process



Long-Term Improvements

- Sorting and searching by vendor
- A separate Budget tracking system
- When LaGov (ERP) becomes active, detailed purchasing information (exactly what was purchased)
- Downloadable database
- Online Lacarte Purchase Card information



The Daily Advertiser editorial

"One of the most important accomplishments of the recent special legislative session was passage of Senate Bill 37. It offers citizens a way to track spending of their tax dollars."

"The creation of the Web site is only important if citizens use it."



Links

Online Spending

- <http://wwwprd.doa.la.gov/latrac/index.cfm>
- <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov>

Performance Management

- <http://wwwprd.doa.louisiana.gov/lapas/public/index.cfm>